

# Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/050,943

Examiner

Milton Nelson, Jr.

Applicant(s)

URAMICHI, HIDEKI

Art Unit

3636

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 5/18/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5, 7-16 and 18-30.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 22 January 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

## Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

Milton Nelson, Jr.  
Primary Examiner  
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## DETAILED ACTION

### *Allowable Subject Matter*

Claims 1-5, 7-16 and 18-30 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claim 1, the prior art of record fails to show a low-rigidity portion formed in each of the first and second leg portions and demonstrating a lower rigidity than the other portions of the first and second leg portions, wherein the low-rigidity portion is formed at a root of each of the leg portions of each of the pawls, in combination with other specifically claimed features.

Regarding claim 7, the prior art of record fails to show a low-rigidity portion formed in each of the first and second leg portions and demonstrating a lower rigidity than the other portions of the first and second leg portions, wherein if a stress is applied to the pawls via the ratchet in the direction in which the ratchet can turn when the pawls are in mesh with the ratchet such that the low-rigidity portion on the side of the stress buckles, each of the pawls are deflected upon the low-rigidity portion on the side of a turning direction such that the first teeth turn toward the ratchet, in combination with other specifically claimed features.

Regarding claim 12, the prior art of record fails to show a low-rigidity portion formed in at least one of the first and second leg portions and demonstrating a lower rigidity than the other portions of the first and second leg portions, wherein the low-

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rigidity portion is formed at a root of each of the leg portions of each of the pawls, in combination with other specifically claimed features.

Regarding claim 18, the prior art of record fails to show a low-rigidity portion formed in at least one of the first and second leg portions and demonstrating a lower rigidity than the other portions of the first and second leg portions, wherein if a stress is applied to the pawls via the ratchet in the direction in which the ratchet can turn when the pawls are in mesh with the ratchet such that the low-rigidity portion on the side of the stress buckles, each of the pawls are deflected upon the low-rigidity portion on the side of a turning direction such that the first teeth turn toward the ratchet, in combination with other specifically claimed features.

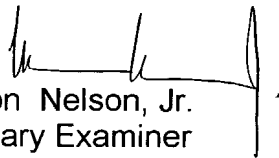
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Milton Nelson, Jr. whose telephone number is 7033082117. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 5:30-3:00.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Milton Nelson, Jr.  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3636

mn  
May 22, 2004